

# News Release



**For Immediate Release:** May 19, 2006  
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## Arkansas' Unemployment Rate Rises to 5.1 Percent

**LITTLE ROCK, Ark.** – Labor force data, produced by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics and released today by the Department of Workforce Services (DWS), shows Arkansas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose three-tenths of a percentage point to 5.1 percent in April 2006. The United States' jobless rate, at 4.7 percent, was unchanged from its rate in March.

In April 2006, total employment in Arkansas declined 9,800 to 1,326,600. The number of unemployed Arkansans increased 4,900 to 71,800.

DWS Communications Director Kimberly Friedman said, "Historical trends for March to April show Arkansas' unemployment rate unchanged from 4.9 percent in 2005, down one-tenth to 5.7 percent in 2004, and up two-tenths to 5.8 percent in 2003." Total employment, though down in April 2006, is the state's highest level ever for the month of April, she said.

**Table 1**  
**ARKANSAS CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE SUMMARY**  
**(Seasonally Adjusted)**

Item	April	March	April	Net Change From	Net Change From
	2006	2006	2005	March 2006	April 2005
Civilian Labor Force	1,398,400	1,403,300	1,354,100	-4,900	44,300
Employment	1,326,600	1,336,400	1,288,100	-9,800	38,500
Unemployment	71,800	66,900	66,000	4,900	5,800
Unemployment Rate	5.1	4.8	4.9	0.3	0.2
U.S. Unemployment Rate	4.7	4.7	5.1	0.0	-0.4

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Note: Unemployment rates were computed from unrounded data.

## **Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**

Arkansas' nonfarm payroll employment (not seasonally adjusted) rose 4,800 to 1,191,300 for April 2006. Seven major sectors saw gains, with **leisure and hospitality** seeing the largest increase (+2,200).

Over the year, nonfarm payroll jobs in Arkansas advanced 12,000. Three major industry groups reported gains of 3,100 or more.

## **Monthly Employment Activity March 2006 to April 2006**

The **leisure and hospitality** sector was the major source of Arkansas' job growth in April as employment rose by 2,200. Accommodations and food services (+1,700) continued a seasonal, upward spiral. Gains were traced to the food services group.

**Trade, transportation, and utilities** added 1,300. The largest additions were posted in trade. Wholesale and retail trade combined for 1,000 jobs, although transportation, warehousing and utilities also noted job increases.

Following significant gains in March, the **construction** industry picked up 800 jobs to total 54,900.

**Educational and health services** gained 600 jobs, as employment expanded to 149,900. The largest addition was traced to health care and social assistance.

**Financial activities** added 300 jobs.

**Other services** (+200) increased to 42,800.

**Professional and business services** had a net gain of 100 jobs. Most of the hiring was traced to administrative and support services.

**Natural resources and mining** was unchanged from 7,100 between months.

**Manufacturing** employment decreased 500. The decline was concentrated in durable goods (-800) and was caused by reductions in orders.

Losses of 100 jobs, each, occurred in **information** and **government**.

## **Yearly Employment Activity April 2005 to April 2006**

**Professional and business services** added 3,900 jobs since April 2005. The most notable increase (+2,800) was in the administrative and support services category.

Employment in the **government** sector rose 3,500. Jobs in local government accounted for more than 91 percent of the year-to-year increase.

The health care and social assistance segment was responsible for a 3,100 gain in **educational and health services**.

Employment in **trade, transportation, and utilities** rose 1,900. New hires were noted particularly in the trade segment, which increased 1,600.

**Leisure and hospitality** added 1,400 jobs. The accommodations and food services category was primarily responsible for the increase.

**Financial activities** gained 1,100 jobs. Finance and insurance companies accounted for the growth.

An increase of 1,100 was posted in **construction**. The largest contribution came from specialty trade contractors.

The number of jobs in **other services** rose 600.

The **natural resources-mining** and **information** sectors gained 200 jobs, each.

Closings and layoffs contributed to a loss of 5,000 **manufacturing jobs**. Employment in the nondurable goods sector decreased 2,700. Reductions were posted throughout the industry, with the largest decline in the food manufacturing segment (-1,200). Jobs in durable goods dropped 2,300; several industry components had reductions ranging from 100 to 700 jobs.

**Table 2**  
**NON-FARM PAYROLL JOBS**  
**STATE OF ARKANSAS**  
**(Not Seasonally Adjusted)**

<b>North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) Industry Group</b>	<b>April 2006</b>	<b>March 2006</b>	<b>April 2005</b>	<b>Net Change From March 2006</b>	<b>Net Change From April 2005</b>
Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs	1,191,300	1,186,500	1,179,300	4,800	12,000
Goods Producing	257,500	257,200	261,200	300	-3,700
<b>Natural Resources &amp; Mining</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>7,100</b>	<b>6,900</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>200</b>
Mining	4,600	4,500	4,000	100	600
<b>Construction</b>	<b>54,900</b>	<b>54,100</b>	<b>53,800</b>	<b>800</b>	<b>1,100</b>
Construction of Buildings	12,100	12,000	12,400	100	-300
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	10,800	10,500	10,500	300	300
Specialty Trade Contractors	32,000	31,600	30,900	400	1,100
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>195,500</b>	<b>196,000</b>	<b>200,500</b>	<b>-500</b>	<b>-5,000</b>
Durable Goods	104,200	105,000	106,500	-800	-2,300
Wood Products	13,300	13,500	13,400	-200	-100
Primary Metals	8,100	8,200	7,900	-100	200
Fabricated Metals	18,200	18,300	18,100	-100	100
Machinery	13,600	13,500	14,300	100	-700
Electrical Equipment	12,600	13,100	13,000	-500	-400
Transportation Equipment	16,200	16,300	16,300	-100	-100
Furniture & Related Products	6,700	6,700	7,300	0	-600
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	5,800	5,700	5,900	100	-100
Nondurable Goods	91,300	91,000	94,000	300	-2,700
Food	49,700	49,600	50,900	100	-1,200
Paper & Printing	16,200	16,100	16,700	100	-500
Plastics & Rubber Products	12,600	12,500	13,000	100	-400
Service Providing	933,800	929,300	918,100	4,500	15,700
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>246,300</b>	<b>245,000</b>	<b>244,400</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>1,900</b>
Wholesale Trade	48,400	48,100	47,600	300	800
Retail Trade	132,200	131,500	131,400	700	800
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	18,000	17,800	17,800	200	200
General Merchandise Stores	38,000	37,800	36,400	200	1,600
Department Stores	9,000	8,900	8,700	100	300
Transportation, Warehousing, & Utilities	65,700	65,400	65,400	300	300
Utilities	6,800	6,700	6,600	100	200
Truck Transportation	35,700	35,500	34,400	200	1,300
Warehousing & Storage	10,000	10,000	9,500	0	500
<b>Information</b>	<b>20,200</b>	<b>20,300</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>200</b>
Publishing Industries	6,600	6,600	6,500	0	100
Telecommunications	8,800	8,900	8,800	-100	0
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>52,300</b>	<b>52,000</b>	<b>51,200</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>1,100</b>
Finance & Insurance	38,900	38,800	37,600	100	1,300
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	13,400	13,200	13,600	200	-200
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>114,600</b>	<b>114,500</b>	<b>110,700</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>3,900</b>
Professional, Scientific, & Technical	36,900	37,000	36,000	-100	900
Management of Companies	23,500	23,600	23,300	-100	200
Administrative & Support Services	54,200	53,900	51,400	300	2,800
Employment Services	26,900	26,600	25,400	300	1,500
<b>Educational &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>149,900</b>	<b>149,300</b>	<b>146,800</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>3,100</b>
Educational Services	12,600	12,400	13,300	200	-700
Health Care & Social Assistance	137,300	136,900	133,500	400	3,800
Ambulatory Health Care	42,400	42,300	40,900	100	1,500
Hospitals	42,500	42,500	41,900	0	600
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	26,900	26,800	26,000	100	900
Social Assistance	25,500	25,300	24,700	200	800
<b>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>96,300</b>	<b>94,100</b>	<b>94,900</b>	<b>2,200</b>	<b>1,400</b>
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	9,500	9,000	9,400	500	100
Accommodations & Food Services	86,800	85,100	85,500	1,700	1,300
Accommodation Services	11,300	10,900	11,100	400	200
Food Services	75,500	74,200	74,400	1,300	1,100
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>42,800</b>	<b>42,600</b>	<b>42,200</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>600</b>
Repair and Maintenance	9,300	9,200	9,300	100	0
<b>Government</b>	<b>211,400</b>	<b>211,500</b>	<b>207,900</b>	<b>-100</b>	<b>3,500</b>
Federal Government	20,400	20,500	20,800	-100	-400
State Government	71,700	71,500	71,000	200	700
Local Government	119,300	119,500	116,100	-200	3,200

Source: Department of Workforce Services, Monthly Survey of Employers.  
 Estimates are based on first quarter 2005 benchmark.  
 Current month's data are preliminary; previous month's data are revised.

## Metropolitan Statistical Area Labor Force

Employment and unemployment numbers for the Metropolitan Statistical Areas for April 2006 (not seasonally adjusted) will be available May 23, 2006. Please log on to our website at [www.discover.arkansas.gov](http://www.discover.arkansas.gov) for MSA and county data.

### Unemployment Comparisons: Minority and Youth

Utilizing data from the monthly BLS Current Population Survey, the Department of Workforce Services estimated the April unemployment rate for minorities in Arkansas at 9.7 percent. The jobless rate for whites was 4.2 percent. The youth unemployment rate was estimated at 18.3 percent. The jobless rate for minority youth was 26.7 percent, while the unemployment rate for white youth was 15.9 percent.

**Table 4**  
**UNEMPLOYMENT RATES FOR MINORITIES AND YOUTH**  
**ARKANSAS AND UNITED STATES**  
**(Seasonally Adjusted)**

	<b>April 2006 Arkansas</b>	<b>April 2006 U.S.</b>	<b>March 2006 Arkansas</b>	<b>March 2006 U.S.</b>	<b>April 2005 Arkansas</b>	<b>April 2005 U.S.</b>
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	5.1	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.9	5.1
<b>Minority</b>	9.7	9.4	9.1	9.3	9.2	10.3
<b>White</b>	4.2	4.1	3.9	4.0	4.0	4.4
<b>Youth (16 to 19)</b>	18.3	14.6	17.2	15.7	17.5	17.6
<b>Minority Youth</b>	26.7	29.5	25.2	33.1	25.6	35.9
<b>White Youth</b>	15.9	12.3	14.9	12.7	15.2	15.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

Note: The minority, white, and youth unemployment rates for Arkansas were calculated by the Department of Workforce Services (DWS) by applying ratios from the 2000 Census to data provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.